Around the Nation

Open Files to ACLU, Chicago Police Told

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CHICAGO—A federal judge has ordered Chicago police to turn over to the American Civil Libertes Union secret intelligence files on 150 organizations and individuals by Aug. 2.

The files range from those kept on peace groups to those allegedly kept on Chicago newspapers, politcal opponents of Mayor Richard J. Daley, community groups, labor unions and lawyers.

U.S. District Court Judge Alfred Y. Kirkland approved the ACLU's request for files Thursday at a pretrial conference on a class action suit filed by the ACLU and 9 other organizations and 17 individuals who allege their rights were violated by police spying.

The files represent a cross-section of members of the class who aren't named individually as plaintiffs in the suit.

Police intelligence files on the named plaintiffs, including the Better Government Association, Operation PUSH, Independent Voters of Illinois, U.S. Rep. Ralph H. Metcalfe (D-Ill.) former Alderman Leon Despres and Aldernen William Counsins Jr. and Dick Simpson also are being produced.

The files will be covered by a protective order requested by the ACLU lawyers to protect the privacy of members of the class in the event the files contain derogatory or false information.

In another case, acting on a suit filed under the Freedom of Information Act, Kirkland ordered the FBI to release files on its surveillance of nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer to the Chicago Sun-Times by July 25.

The late Opperheimer was civilian head of the Manhattan Project, which developed the first atomic bomb during the closing months of World War II. His security clearance was revoked by then President Eisenhower in 1953. Oppenheimer was later exonerated and honored by President Johnson in 1963.

Son-Times associate editor Stuart H. Loory reported last year that the FBI had wiretapped conversations between Oppenheimer and his lawyers after the revocation of his clearance.

Kirkland ordered the FBI to turn over all requested information from the Oppenheimer file except for material that might jeopardze national defense, invade personal privacy or disclose investigatory sources.